

 Photo of a mountain range: Aiming for the high ground



**Current Training  
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**New On-Line Courses**  
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New submission format and rubric  
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**Books**  
**[Meaningful  
Interpretation](#)**  
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**Masters Degree in  
Resource Interpretation**  
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The Interpretive Development Program encourages the stewardship of park resources by facilitating meaningful, memorable visitor experiences. The program is based on the philosophy that people will ***care for*** what they first ***care about***. This is accomplished by aiming for the highest standards of professionalism in interpretation.

### The Interpretive Development Program provides...

- NPS mission-based training and development curriculum
- Field-developed national standards for interpretive effectiveness
- Peer review certification program
- Developmental tools and resources

### The Interpretive Development Program is designed to...

- Foster accountability and professionalism in interpretation in the NPS
- Facilitate meaningful, memorable experiences for all visitors
- Result in a higher level of public stewardship for park resources
- Facilitate learner-driven skill development

### Since 1995, the Interpretive Development Program has...

- Peer-reviewed over **5,900** interpretive [programs and products](#) for park rangers, volunteers and partners
- Provided substantive feedback to interpreters for program and product improvement
- Pioneered a professional language and [standards](#) for interpretation that have drawn the interest of other federal and state agencies, universities, professional and international organizations

- Pioneered in the NPS an employee development strategy of performance-based [competencies](#)
- Focused [employee development](#) on "outcome" rather than process

See [About the Program](#) for additional background information.

## What's in the IDP for Me?

**Click on your job category to see what the IDP can do for you!**

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**"We've come a long way... but we're only just beginning."**



Photo of a climber:  
Aiming for the high  
ground.

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